

## CLAIMS

1. An electronic thermostat for a liquid heating apparatus having a container in which liquid is contained and a heater that is operable by electrical power to heat the liquid, the electronic thermostat comprising:

a mechanical switch through which electrical power is applied to the heater to increase a temperature of the liquid from an initial temperature toward a target temperature, and

a solid-state switch through which electrical power is applied to the heater to maintain the temperature of the liquid at substantially the target temperature.

2. A method of heating a liquid, the method comprising:  
operating a mechanical switch to apply power to a heater to heat the liquid from an initial temperature toward a target temperature, and  
operating a solid-state switch to apply power to the heater to maintain the liquid substantially at the target temperature.

3. In a beverage brewing apparatus, an electronic thermostat for a liquid heating apparatus having a container in which liquid is contained and a heater that is operable by electrical power to heat the liquid, the electronic thermostat comprising:

a mechanical switch through which electrical power is applied to the heater to increase a temperature of the liquid from an initial temperature toward a target temperature, and

a solid-state switch through which electrical power is applied to the heater to maintain the temperature of the liquid at substantially the target temperature.

4. A method of heating a liquid for use in a beverage brewing apparatus, the method comprising:

operating a mechanical switch to apply power to a heater to heat the liquid from an initial temperature toward a target temperature, and

operating a solid-state switch to apply power to the heater to maintain the liquid substantially at the target temperature.

5           5.       An electronic thermostat kit for use in combination with a liquid heating apparatus having a container in which liquid is contained and a heater that is operable by electrical power to heat the liquid, the electronic thermostat kit comprising:

                  a mechanical switch through which electrical power is applied to the heater to increase a temperature of the liquid from an initial temperature toward a  
10       target temperature, and

                  a solid-state switch through which electrical power is applied to the heater to maintain the temperature of the liquid at substantially the target temperature.

                  6.       An electronic thermostat for a liquid temperature modifying  
15       apparatus having a container in which liquid is contained and a temperature modifier that is operable by electrical power to at least one of heat or cool the liquid, the electronic thermostat comprising:

                  a mechanical switch through which electrical power is applied to the temperature modifier to change a temperature of the liquid from an initial temperature  
20       toward a target temperature, and

                  a solid-state switch through which electrical power is applied to the temperature modifier to maintain the temperature of the liquid at substantially the target temperature.

25           7.       A method of modifying the temperature a liquid, the method comprising:

                  operating a mechanical switch to apply power to a temperature modifier to change the temperature of a liquid from an initial temperature toward a target temperature, and

30           operating a solid-state switch to apply power to the temperature modifier to maintain the liquid substantially at the target temperature.